

May 22, 2025

SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
Plaintiff,

v.

JUAN CARDENAS VALDOVINOS (2),  
JOSE CARLOS MENDOZA SANCHEZ  
(3), ROBERTO VALENCIA VALDEZ  
(4),

Defendants.

No. 4:23-CR-6027-RLP-2,3,4

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT'S  
MOTION TO CONTINUE AND CASE  
MANAGEMENT ORDER

Before the Court is Defendant Juan Cardenas Valdovinos' Unopposed Motion to Continue the Date for Suppression Hearing, Pretrial Conference and Trial Dates and Extend the Time for Filing Pretrial Motions. ECF No. 136. On March 19, 2025, a pretrial evidentiary hearing was held regarding Defendant Valdovinos' Motion to Suppress. The hearing was continued to a later date based on the availability of the parties and the witnesses. The parties agreed to continue the pretrial hearing to June 11, 2025, and have now also agreed to a new trial date of September 29, 2025. Mr. Valdovinos asserts a continuance is necessary to complete the suppression hearing, continue investigation of the

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1 case, prepare additional pretrial motions and prepare for trial, if necessary. Mr. Valdovinos  
2 and co-defendant Mr. Valdez have filed Waivers of Speedy Trial Rights, accompanied by  
3 Statements of Reasons, in support of the Motion. ECF No. 138, 139. Neither the United  
4 States nor the co-defendants object to this request for a continuance.

5 The Court has reviewed the file and is fully informed. The Court finds that, taking  
6 into account the exercise of due diligence, the current trial date of June 2, 2025, would  
7 deprive defense counsel of adequate time to obtain and review discovery and conduct  
8 effective preparation. 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(B)(iv). Therefore, the Court finds that the  
9 ends of justice are served by a continuance in this matter and further that the ends of  
10 justice served by a continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and Defendant in  
11 a speedy trial. 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

12 Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED.**

13 1. Defendants' unopposed motion to continue the pretrial hearing and trial, ECF  
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**No. 136, is GRANTED.**

15 2. The evidentiary hearing regarding Defendant Valdovinos' Motion to Suppress  
16 is continued to **June 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** in Richland, Washington.

17 3. The current trial date of June 2, 2025 is **STRICKEN** and **RESET** for  
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**September 29, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**, commencing with a final pretrial conference at **8:30**  
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**a.m.** Trial shall take place in Richland, Washington.

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1       4. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), the time between June 2, 2025 and  
2 September 29, 2025 is DECLARED EXCLUDABLE for purposes of computing time  
3 under the Speedy Trial Act.  
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5       5. The pretrial conference is set for **September 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.** in  
6 Richland, Washington. Counsel shall advise the Court regarding any dispositive change in  
7 the status of this case **at least five (5) working days prior to the pretrial conference.**  
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9       6. Counsel for defense shall notify the defendants of all hearings and assure their  
10 attendance at court.  
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12       7. All pretrial motions, including motions *in limine* and *Daubert* motions, shall  
13 be filed and served on or before **August 20, 2025** and noted for hearing at the pretrial  
14 conference. Any response to a pretrial motion shall be filed and served in accordance with  
15 Local Civil Rule 7.  
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17       8. All pretrial conferences are scheduled to last not more than **thirty (30)**  
18 **minutes**, with each side allotted **fifteen (15) minutes** to present their own motions and  
19 respond to motions filed by opposing counsel. If any party anticipates requiring longer  
20 than fifteen minutes, that party must notify the Courtroom Deputy at least **five (5)**  
21 **working days** prior to the hearing. **Any party who fails to provide this notice will be**  
22 **limited to fifteen (15) minutes.**  
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24       9. If a party files any motion that requires an evidentiary hearing and/or requires  
25 the Court to act as a finder of fact, that party must notify the Courtroom Deputy at **least**  
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1           **fourteen (14) days** prior to the hearing. The parties will coordinate with the Courtroom  
2 Deputy to schedule an evidentiary hearing that provides enough time for the parties to  
3 present evidence, including witness testimony and exhibits. If the parties anticipate  
4 offering witness testimony, the parties shall file with the Court a witness list, together with  
5 a brief summary of the proposed testimony, at least **five (5) working days** before the  
6 hearing. If the parties anticipate offering or referring to exhibits during the hearing, the  
7 parties shall file with the Court a binder of the proposed exhibits, pre-marked for  
8 identification, at least **five (5) working days** prior to the hearing. The Government's  
9 exhibits shall be numbered 1 to 199; Defendant's exhibits shall be numbered 200 to 299.  
10 The parties are encouraged to file their exhibits jointly, so that the Court may quickly refer  
11 to all exhibits in one place.

12           **10.** Any supplemental jury questionnaire must be approved by the Court not less  
13 than three weeks before the trial date. Accordingly, should the parties propose an agreed  
14 supplemental questionnaire, it is due no later than one month before the trial date. Should  
15 one or more of the parties desire a supplemental questionnaire, but no agreement can be  
16 reached, that party shall file a motion for supplemental questionnaire, set for hearing  
17 without oral argument no later than one month before trial date. Counsel should note that a  
18 motion must be filed sufficiently in advance of the hearing date to allow for briefing and  
19 consideration by the Court.

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1       **11.** Further motions to continue this matter will not be granted absent exceptional  
2 circumstances that could not have been anticipated prior to issuance of this order. Should  
3 counsel seek an additional continuance, a motion shall be filed at the earliest practicable  
4 opportunity, but no later than **five (5) working days prior to said proceeding**. Movant  
5 **shall** provide (1) a detailed explanation of the new circumstances that justify the requested  
6 continuance; (2) a realistic assessment of the amount of time requested; (3) if applicable,  
7 Defendant's signed Speedy Trial waiver; (4) the position of all co-defendants and  
8 opposing counsel; and (5) the proposed new date. The Court will accept Defendant's  
9 digital signature on a speedy trial waiver if accompanied by counsel's verification of the  
10 authenticity of the signature. Additionally, any motions filed after the pretrial motion  
11 deadline will be considered at the pretrial conference.

12       **12.** Trial briefs, proposed voir dire, jury instructions, verdict forms, exhibit lists,  
13 expert witness lists, and summaries of expert testimony shall be filed and served by all  
14 parties on or before **five (5) working days prior to trial**. This does not modify the parties'  
15 discovery obligations under Fed. R. Crim. P. 16. Absent an agreement between the parties  
16 or an Order from the Court, the parties' Fed. R. Crim. P. 16 discovery deadlines shall be  
17 governed by Local Criminal Rule 16.

18       **13.** Under federal law, including Rule 5(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal  
19 Procedure, *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), and all applicable decisions from the  
20 Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit interpreting *Brady*, the government has a continuing  
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1 obligation to produce all information or evidence known to the government relating to  
2 guilt or punishment that might reasonably be considered favorable to the defendant's case,  
3 even if the evidence is not admissible so long as it is reasonably likely to lead to  
4 admissible evidence. *See United States v. Price*, 566 F.3d 900, 913 n.14 (9th Cir. 2009).  
5 Accordingly, the Court **orders** the government to produce to the Defendants in a timely  
6 manner all such information or evidence.  
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9 Information or evidence may be favorable to a Defendant's case if it either may help  
10 bolster the Defendant's case or impeach a prosecutor's witness or other government  
11 evidence. If doubt exists, it should be resolved in favor of the Defendants with full  
12 disclosure being made.  
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15 If the government believes that a required disclosure would compromise witness  
16 safety, victim rights, national security, a sensitive law-enforcement technique, or any other  
17 substantial government interest, the government may apply to the Court for a modification  
18 of the requirements of this Disclosure Order, which may include *in camera* review and/or  
19 withholding or subjecting to a protective order all or part of the information.  
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22 This Order is entered under Rule 5(f) and does not relieve any party in this matter of  
23 any other discovery obligation. The consequences for violating either this Order or the  
24 government's obligations under *Brady* include, but are not limited to, the following:  
25 contempt, sanction, referral to a disciplinary authority, adverse jury instruction, exclusion  
26 of evidence, and dismissal of charges. Nothing in this Order enlarges or diminishes the  
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government's obligation to disclose information and evidence to a defendant under *Brady*, as interpreted and applied under Supreme Court and Ninth Circuit precedent. As the Supreme Court noted, "the government violates the Constitution's Due Process Clause 'if it withholds evidence that is favorable to the defense and material to the defendant's guilt or punishment.'" *Turner v. United States*, 137 S. Ct. 1885, 1888 (2017) (quoting *Smith v. Cain*, 565 U.S. 73, 75 (2012)).

**14.** The Court utilizes JERS (Jury Evidence Recording System) to allow evidence admitted for a trial to be viewed electronically via touchscreen monitor in the jury deliberation room upon the conclusion of the trial. Please note that the jury will receive a verbatim copy of the JERS exhibit list. Review and follow the instructions on the public website within the Courtroom Support information for attorneys.

The District Court Executive is hereby directed to enter this Order and furnish copies to counsel, the United States Probation Office, and the United States Marshal's Office.

**DATED** May 22, 2025.

  
REBECCA L. PENNELL  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

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